tired/' He had been a bonny fighter, but .he was not the type to restore Europe to the paths of peace. Political architects, like moral reformers, ftiust have faith in mankind. Looking round our distracted Continent in 1935 the " realists " of 1919 have little cause for satisfaction or pride. It is the nemesis of *raison d'itat.* The dragon's teeth have come up once again as armed men.

The two most urgent tasks of tof-day are to escape from the vast disintegration of the war and to remove the chief causes from which it sprung. They are in reality a single problem. We can trace back our present discontents to their source as we tick off links in a chain. The universal *malaise,* the economic dislocation and the political re-barbarisation of half Europe arise in the main from the misuse of a hundred per cent, victory. The treaties in turn were in part the expression of the mood of anger and revenge generated by the horrors of the struggle, Tlie conflict itself was the outcome of the false doctrine of self-sufficing national sovereignty, which had led rulers and governments to neglect the reiterated warnings of •history. Wars large and small had filled even the enlightened nineteenth century with their roar, and the opening years of the twentieth witnessed fresh conflicts in Tripoli, the Balkans and the Far East. In the intervals of war we staggered from crisis to crisis, breathing sighs of relief when the immediate peril passed but taking no steps to prevent its recurrence. Ajmaments accumulated on land and sea, the Hague Conferences politely bowed limitation out of Court, and the most civilized nations plunged blindly forward to their doom. We were living on the slopes of a volcano, and we knew it The war'of 1914 was by no means inevitable; but if the corner had been safely turned after the Serajevo murders the next

crisis in the Balkans might just as well have started the rush of the avalanche.

In face of the great catastrophe it is idle to mumble our ancient formulas that if you wish for peace you must prepare for war ? that to be safe you must be stronger than your neighbours ; that every state must think and act exclusively for itself. Such maxims, whatever their earlier justification or excuse, are out of date. The whole scene has been transformed by the discoveries of science on the one hand and by the object-lesson of the World War on the other. That a revolver shot in an obscure Bosnian town could set Europe aflame within five weeks proved that the life of every one of us is at the mercy